(b) whether there are any guidelines for the panel;

(c) by when, the outcome of the study is expected; and

(d) how far it would affect the Gold Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Committee to examine the regulatory structure of the Gold Industry to make India a gold trading hub has been constituted by the Ministry of Commerce.

The Committee has following terms of reference:

(i) Improving the scope of measures to be undertaken to facilitate banks to hedge in Future Markets on Gold.

(ii) Recommend measures to facilitate Mutual Funds to invest in gold

(iii) Recommend measures to improve the ability of the banks to implement Gold-Linked Saving Scheme.

(iv) Recommend appropriate customs and foreign trade measures that are required to be undertaken to facilitate manufacturing and trading in gold.

(v) Any other recommendation required to be made to improve trading in gold and also on measures required to ensure quality of the goods being traded.

The Committee is expected to submit its report within six weeks from the date of its first meeting. The findings of the Committee are expected to improve the prospects of Gold Trade in the country.

Growth of cement industry

305. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth of cement industry is very modest during the current year as compared to the previous years;

(b) if so, the details of the growth rate of cement industry during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether Government have estimated the demand and supply of cement in the country;

(d) [illegible]

(e) the areas which are untapped or neglected; and

(f) the steps Government propose to take to maximise the cement production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Production of cement during the current year (April-October, 2004) was 70.60 million tonnes as compared to 66.41 million tonnes during the corresponding period of previous year, registering a growth rate of 6.31% which may improve further by the end of the current year and may compare favourably with the growth rate of 5.53% achieved in the year 2003-04, 8.74% in the year 2002-03, 9.39% in the year 2001-02 and marginally negative growth rate of 0.64% in the year 2000-01.

(b) Production of cement and growth rate achieved by the cement industry during the last five years, State-wise are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) The Working Group constituted by the Government for the formulation of Tenth Five Year Plan had, on the assumption that the GDP would grow at the rate of 8%, assessed the demand for cement in the country to reach the level of 161 million tonnes by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan. It had assessed that the industry would be able to produce 203 million tonnes by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(e) and (f) As the capacity of the industry to produce is far in excess of demand for cement, there are no untapped or neglected areas. Since production of cement is dependant upon demand for cement, some of the measures taken by the Government to increase demand are as under:—

(i) To give boost to housing development programme, various fiscal incentives have been provided in the Finance Act, 2001 and Finance Act, 2002 and the benefits enjoyed by the Housing Industry under Section 80(I)(B) under the heading "Direct Taxes" have been extended upto 31st March, 2007;

(ii) Allocation of funds for Indira Awas Yojana in the rural areas has been raised from Rs. 1710 crores to Rs. 2247 crores in the Budget 2004-05;

(iii) Under Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme, finance is proposed to be provided to 2,50,000 rural housing units against the present target of 1,80,000 units per year; and

(iv) Public investment in big infrastructure projects like roads, railways, airports and sea ports is being enhanced.

Statement

Growth of Cement Industry

(In lakh tonnes)

Sl. No.	Region/State	1998-99	1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
		Prodn.	Prodn.	Growth % over 1998-99	Prodn.	Growth % over 1999-2000	Prodn.	Growth % over 2000-01	Prodn.	Growth % over 2001-02	Prodn.	Growth % over 2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Northern Region												
1.	Haryana	0	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—
2.	Punjab	11.63	14.74	26.74	15.24	3.39	19.03	24.87	29.47	54.86	33.31	13.08
3.	Rajasthan	126.67	148.52	17.25	145.28	-2.18	160.05	10.17	172.81	7.97	177.81	2.89
4.	Himachal Pradesh	31.47	34.1	8.36	33.75	-1.03	38.98	15.50	37.96	-2.62	39.93	5.19
5.	Delhi	0.11	—	100.00	—	—	0	—	0	—	—	—
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.12	0.96	14.29	1.09	13.54	1.36	24.77	1.14	-16.18	1.19	4.39
Northern Region-Total		171	198.32	15.98	195.36	-1.49	219.42	12.32	241.38	10.01	252.24	4.50
Eastern Region												
7.	Assam	1.27	1.18	-7.09	1.34	13.56	1.33	-0.75	1.42	6.77	1.19	-16.20
8.	Meghalaya	1.07	1.15	7.48	1.22	6.09	1.06	-13.11	1.04	-1.89	0.99	-4.81
9.	Bihar	24.84	30.02	20.85	6.2	-79.35	6.25	0.81	5.62	-10.08	3.39	-39.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	25.08	—	30.09	19.98	36.37	20.87	35.88	-1.35
11.	Orissa	19.53	20.8	6.50	24.17	16.20	24.33	0.66	26.12	7.36	24.83	-4.94
12.	West Bengal	6.74	8.64	28.19	8.33	-3.59	17.4	108.88	25.2	44.83	27.44	8.89
13.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	86.06	—	86.26	0.23	71.27	-17.38	72.98	2.40
Eastern Region-Total		53.45	61.79	15.60	152.4	146.64	166.72	9.40	167.04	0.19	166.70	-0.20
Southern Region												
14.	Andhra Pradesh	117.42	143.17	21.93	126.35	-11.75	134.12	6.15	132.48	-1.22	140.37	5.96
15.	Tamil Nadu	72.92	78.6	7.79	82.41	4.85	93.08	12.95	116.66	25.33	122.91	5.36
16.	Karnataka	54.45	62.91	15.54	60.89	-3.21	67.64	11.09	80.92	19.63	92.77	14.64
17.	Kerala	3.6	4.36	21.11	4.37	0.23	3.94	-9.84	4.1	4.06	5.28	28.78
Southern Region-Total		248.39	289.04	16.37	274.02	-5.20	298.78	9.04	334.16	11.84	361.33	8.13
Western Region												
18.	Gujarat	90.72	92.87	2.37	93.14	0.29	105.45	13.22	100.84	-4.37	103.70	2.84
19.	Maharashtra	55.65	60.28	8.32	65.03	7.88	66.84	2.78	91.88	37.46	106.31	15.71
Western Region-Total		**146.37**	**153.15**	**4.63**	**158.17**	**3.28**	**172.29**	**8.93**	**192.72**	**11.86**	**210.01**	**8.97**
Central Region												
20.	Uttar Pradesh	6.93	15.1	117.89	16.02	6.09	18.27	14.04	24.27	32.84	34.58	42.48
21.	Madhya Pradesh	190.54	224.67	17.91	140.10	-37.64	148.53	6.02	153.92	3.63	150.18	-2.43
Central Region-Total		197.47	239.77	21.42	156.12	-34.89	166.80	6.84	178.19	6.83	184.76	3.69
Grand Total		**816.68**	**942.07**	**15.35**	**936.07**	**-0.64**	**1024.01**	**9.39**	**1113.49**	**8.74**	**1175.04**	**5.53**